

Qianshan He

I am Qianshan He, a graduate student from University of Southern California, majoring in Financial Engineering, which is focused on the application of the engineering method to analytical finance. I greatly enjoyed my internship with the City of Torrance.

I graduated from Hunan University, where I majored in Finance. I used to have an internship with the Bank of China, in the Small and Medium Sized Business Credit Department. In this position I understood the process of credit granting and gained experience on how to collect data and evaluate an enterprise. In order to gain insight and a deep understanding of finance in an established finance world and realize my dream of working as financial analyst for investment bank, I came to United States to pursue my Masters Degree.

After I came to USC, in addition to taking business courses including Financial Management and Corporate Valuation and math courses including Stochastic Process and Probability, I planned to acclimate myself to the U.S. society and learn about American office culture. In May 2013, I saw a position for City Treasurer Office of Torrance on ConnectSC. I thought it was a great opportunity to learn about one of the most important parts of the U.S., the city government, and I applied for it. Luckily, I got the five-week internship and began my first day on July 1st, 2013.

My internship in the City Treasurer Office mainly involves building the database of the Deferred Compensation Plan for Torrance employee using Access. During this five week internship, I got to know how the deferred compensation plan works. Additionally, every Monday morning, a guest speaker gave a detailed presentation about the different departments of the City of Torrance, including the Economic Development, Environment, Labor and Human Resources. These presentations were really eye-opening and helpful in presenting Torrance to us in a more complete way.

What interested me most were the City Council meetings. I had never attended this kind of government meeting in either the U.S. or China. The spirit of the meeting reveals the right of the Torrance citizens to participate in the local government. It opens a window for the residents to speak directly to the different city departments, which is very valuable in a democratic society. It makes the channel connecting the residents to the city management team more transparent and efficient. The meetings also indicate that the government is the servant of the citizens and provides the people with the best service related to their daily life, instead of a system that implements surveillance and rules the people like a dictator.

I really enjoyed my five-week internship program here at City of Torrance. The people in the city government are so nice and warm-hearted, I know I can get help whenever I am

confused, and I feel like it's a big family. The time I have spent in the Torrance city government is going to be a valuable treasure in my life that I will appreciate.